

03/14/01

J1017 U.S. PTO
09/805107
03/14/01

[illegible]

3. A check including the amount of \$710.00 is enclosed to cover the Filing Fee.

4. Cancel claims 2-21 before calculating the Filing Fee.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417. A duplicate copy of this Request is enclosed for this purpose.

6. Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line:

--This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 09/514,352, filed February 28, 2000, which is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 08/975,227, filed November 21, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,085,170.--.

7. New drawings are enclosed, fifteen (15) sheets, Figs. 1-19.

8. The power of attorney is set forth in the Declaration in the prior application or an associate power of attorney is hereby granted to:

Jeffrey M. Ketchum, Registration No. 31,174
Shrinath Malur, Registration No. 34,663
John R. Mattingly, Registration No. 30,293
Daniel J. Stanger, Registration No. 32,846
Gene W. Stockman, Registration No. 21,021.

There is a change in the correspondence address.

Address all future correspondence to:

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
104 East Hume Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
(703) 684-1120.

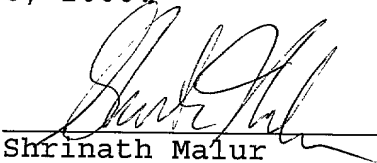
9. The prior application is assigned to Hitachi, Ltd.

10. Priority of the following Japanese patent application is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119:

No. 8-317438, filed November 28, 1996.

The certified priority document has been filed in the parent application, Serial No. 08/975,227.

The undersigned hereby declares that no matter contained in the specification, including the claims, and drawings filed in the present continuation application would have been new matter in the prior application Serial No. 09/514,352, as originally filed on February 28, 2000.


Shrinath Malur
Registration No. 34,663
Attorney of Record

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
104 East Hume Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
(703) 684-1120
Date: March 14, 2001